

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Amendments

The claims are amended to address the claim objections.

Summary of Official Action

Claims 1-5 and 8-14 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,635,385 (“FUJIMATSU”).

The Office Action states that FUJIMASTSU discloses all the steps claimed in claims 1-7. The Examiner also states that the transitional phrase “comprising” has been construed as an open ended phrase that does not exclude other press steps.

Claims 8-19 are allowable over the prior art record.

Response to Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 8-14 are amended to delete reference signs and parenthesis as requested in the Office Action.

With respect to claims 1-7, Applicants respectfully submit that priority in the application is claimed to Japanese Application Nos. 2000-198170, filed June 30, 2000 and 2001-141514, filed May 11, 2001. Submitted herewith are certified copies of the priority documents and verified English language translations thereof. Therefore, the claims of foreign priority of the present application are perfected in compliance with M.P.E.P. §706.02(b)(E). It is Applicants’ understanding that Japanese Patent Application No.

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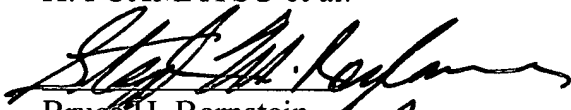
2000-198170, filed in Japan on June 30, 2000, provides sufficient support of claims 1-7 of the present invention. Since the foreign priority date of the present application is prior to the effective U.S. filing date of FUJIMATSU (March 20, 2001), FUJIMATSU is no longer qualified as a prior art. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-7 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted.

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June 30, 2004
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